

**BY ORDER OF THE
COMMANDING OFFICER
OF THE 185th VFS**

**185th VFS INSTRUCTION
4 -1
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**SOP 4 - 185th MEDALS
AND AWARDS – Ver 1.4**

NOTICE: This publication is available on the [185th web-site](#).

SUPERCEEDS ALL PREVIOUS VERSIONS OF THE
MEDALS AND AWARDS DOCUMENT

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This document details the medals and awards, including qualifying criteria, which can be earned by members of the 185.



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1.0 AWARDS OVERVIEW

1.1 GALLANTRY MEDALS

Awarded by Command after citation from a Flight Lead (use form at the end of this document for submissions):

- 1- Medal Of Honour.
- 2- Distinguished Flying Cross.
- 3- Silver Star.
- 4- Air medal.

1.2 SQUADRON SERVICE MEDALS

Awarded by Command after citation from any active 185th member for service to the squadron (use form at the end of this document for submissions):

- 1- Distinguished Service Medal
- 2- Legion Of Merit
- 3- Meritorious Service Medal
- 4- Volunteer Service Medal

1.3 YEARLY CPL MEDALS

Awarded by Command based on CPL performance over the year:

- 1 - Presidential Flight Award – Flight of the Year.
- 2 - Outstanding Airman of the Year – Pilot of the year.
- 3 - Most Consistent Pilot of the Year – Average Score.
- 4 - Survivor of the Year – Highest RTB percentage.
- 5 - Yearly Ace Of the Base.
- 6 - Yearly Master Mudpounder.

1.4 QUARTERLY CPL MEDALS

Awarded by Command based on CPL performance over 3 months:

- 1 - Meritorious Flight Award – Flight of the Quarter.
- 2 - Airman of the Quarter - Pilot of the Quarter.
- 3 - Most Consistent Pilot of the Quarter - Average Score.
- 4 - Survivor of the quarter – Highest RTB average.
- 5 - Quarterly Ace Of the Base.
- 6 - Quarterly Master Mudpounder.

1.5 FLYING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Awarded by Flight Leads to pilots who meet the criteria but Command should be notified so they can congratulate the individual. (Note that the Instructor and Training ribbons can only be awarded by the Training Officer):

- 1 - Longevity Service Award – 5 years service.
- 2 - Korea Campaign Service Medal – 3 years service.
- 3 - Aerial Achievement Medal – 50 CPL TEs flown.
- 4 - Air Force Achievement Medal – 1 years service.
- 5 - Instructor Pilot Ribbon – Held by all current Instructors.
- 6 - Air Ribbon - 15 A-A kills on the CPL.
- 7 - Ground Ribbon – 30 A-G kills on the CPL.
- 8 - Advanced Training Ribbon.
- 9 - Combat Readiness Ribbon.
- 10 - Basic Training Ribbon.
- 11 - First Blood Ribbon – 2 A-A and 5 A-G kills on the CPL.

1.6 ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

Awarded by Flight Leads to pilots who meet criteria:

- 1 - 5th Anniversary Medal.

1.7 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS



An **Oak leaf cluster** is a common device which is placed on military awards and decorations to denote those who have received more than one bestowal of a particular decoration. The number of oak leaf clusters typically indicates the second and subsequent award of the decoration.

The USAF awards bronze and silver oak leaf clusters. This allows a large number of award annotations to fit on a single ribbon. A bronze oak leaf cluster can be awarded each time a pilot receives an award (after the first). A silver cluster can be awarded for multiples of 5 awards ie when a pilots has achieved the same award:

- Five time they can be awarded a silver cluster
- For seven times a silver cluster and two bronze clusters
- For ten times two silver clusters etc.

2.0 185TH GALLANTRY AWARDS IN ORDER OF MERIT



2.1 MEDAL OF HONOUR



Criteria: The Medal of Honour is awarded to a member who distinguishes themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy. *The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades.* Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be required (ACMI).



2.2 DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS



Criteria: The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to a member who distinguishes themselves by an extraordinary act while participating in aerial flight against an enemy. *The performance of the act must be a voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty. Awards will be made only to recognize single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement and will not be made in recognition of sustained operational activities.* Proof by way of an ACMI will be required.



2.3 SILVER STAR



Criteria: The Silver Star is awarded to a member who has distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. *Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit or for meritorious service.* As a minimum level of proof for a single act, a de-brief screen-shot showing the relevant action will be required, for sustained meritorious service reference to the CPL may be made.



2.4 AIR MEDAL



Criteria: The Air medal is awarded to any member who has distinguished themselves by *a heroic act*, usually voluntary, but *not involving actual combat*. A least 1 person must have witnessed the act, or an ACMI of the event be available, before this award can be considered.

3.0 185TH SQUADRON SERVICE AWARDS IN ORDER OF MERIT



3.1 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL



Criteria: This decoration is awarded to members who distinguish themselves by exceptionally meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility. This medal would normally only be awarded to *recognise sustained and exceptional achievements of very Senior Officer's within the 185th.*



3.2 LEGION OF MERIT



Criteria: The Legion of Merit is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. Justification for the award will be accrued by virtue of sustained and exceptionally meritorious service in an important position. *This merit would normally only be awarded to senior officers who have worked tirelessly to advance the 185th.*



3.3 MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL



Criteria: Awarded to members who distinguished themselves by outstanding meritorious achievement. Normally, the acts or services rendered must be comparable to that required for the Legion of Merit but in a duty of lesser, though considerable responsibility. *This merit would normally be awarded to pilots who have worked tirelessly to advance the 185th but do not hold a senior officer appointment.*



3.4 VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL



Criteria: Awarded to members who have performed outstanding volunteer service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature. While there is no specific time threshold to qualify for the Volunteer Service Medal, command shall ensure the service to be honoured merits the special recognition afforded by this medal. *This medal is intended to recognize pilots who have volunteered to support the 185th over time and not a single act or achievement.*

4.0 185TH CPL YEARLY AWARDS IN ORDER OF MERIT



4.1 PRESIDENTIAL FLIGHT AWARD

Criteria: Awarded to the best Flight of the year based on the highest team score in the CPL. This award is held by a flight for one year only and then passes to the next winner.



4.2 OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR

Criteria: Awarded to the best pilot of the year based on the highest score in the CPL. Kept for life but when recorded, it is to include the year it was won.



4.3 MOST CONSISTENT PILOT OF THE YEAR

Criteria: Awarded to the best pilot of the year based on the highest average score in the CPL. Kept for life but when recorded, it is to include the year it was won.



4.4 SURVIVOR OF THE YEAR

Criteria: Awarded to the best pilot of the year based on the highest RTB percentage in the CPL. Kept for life but when recorded, it is to include the year it was won.



4.5 YEARLY ACE OF THE BASE

Criteria: Awarded to the best pilot of the year based on the highest number of A-A kills in the CPL. Kept for life but when recorded, it is to include the year it was won.



4.6 YEARLY MASTER MUDPOUNDER

Criteria: Awarded to the best pilot of the year based on the highest number of A-G kills in the CPL. Kept for life but when recorded, it is to include the year it was won.

5.0 185TH CPL QUARTERLY AWARDS IN ORDER OF MERIT



5.1 MERITORIOUS FLIGHT AWARD

Criteria: Awarded to the Flight of the quarter based on the highest team score in the CPL. This award is held by a flight for one quarter only and then passes to the next winner.



5.2 AIRMAN OF THE QUARTER

Criteria: Awarded to the best pilot of the quarter based on the highest score in the CPL. Kept for life but when recorded, it is to include the year and quarter it was won.



5.3 MOST CONSISTENT PILOT OF QUARTER

Criteria: Awarded to the best pilot of the quarter based on the highest average score in the CPL. Kept for life but when recorded, it is to include the year and quarter it was won.



5.4 SURVIVOR OF THE QUARTER

Criteria: Awarded to the best pilot of the quarter based on the highest RTB percentage in the CPL. Kept for life but when recorded, it is to include the year and quarter it was won.



5.5 QUARTERLY ACE OF THE BASE

Criteria: Awarded to the best pilot of the quarter based on the highest number of A-A kills in the CPL. Kept for life but when recorded, it is to include the year and quarter it was won.



5.6 QUARTERLY MASTER MUDPOUNDER

Criteria: Awarded to the best pilot of the quarter based on the highest number of A-G kills in the CPL. Kept for life but when recorded, it is to include the year and quarter it was won.

6.0 185TH FLYING AWARDS IN ORDER OF MERIT



6.1 LONGEVITY SERVICE MEDAL



Criteria: Awarded on completion of 5 years operational service with the 185th.



6.2 KOREA CAMPAIGN SERVICE MEDAL



Criteria: Awarded on completion of 3 years operational service with the 185th.



6.3 AERIAL ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



Criteria: Awarded on completion of 50 CPL official flight night TEs with the 185th.



6.4 AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



Criteria: Awarded on completion of 1 years operational service with the 185th.



6.5 INSTRUCTOR PILOT RIBBON

Criteria: Held by current Instructor pilots. Can be awarded permanently to pilots once they have been an Instructor for more than 6 months, at the Training Officers discretion.



6.6 ADVANCED TRAINING RIBBON

Criteria: Successful completion of the Advanced Flight Training package.



6.7 COMBAT READINESS RIBBON

Criteria: Successful completion of the Operational Conversion Training package.



6.8 AIR RIBBON

Criteria: Awarded for 15 A-A kills in the CPL.



6.9 GROUND RIBBON

Criteria: Awarded for 30 A-G kills in the CPL.



6.10 BASIC TRAINING RIBBON

Criteria: Successful completion of the Basic Flight Training package.



6.11 FIRST BLOOD RIBBON

Criteria: Achieve 2 A-A and 5 A-G kills in the CPL.

7.0 185TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS



7.1 5TH ANNIVERSARY MEDAL



Criteria: A one off award given to any pilot in the 185th who was a member of, or joined, the Squadron during it's 5th Anniversary year. The qualifying period runs from the 0001 hrs on the 3 July 2004 until 2359 hrs on the 2 July 2005.

8.0 FULL LIST OF 185TH AWARDS IN ORDER OF MERIT

1. Medal Of Honour.
2. Distinguished Service Medal.
3. Distinguished Flying Cross.
4. Legion Of Merit.
5. Longevity Service Award – 5 Year Service.
6. Silver Star.
7. Meritorious Service Medal.
8. Air medal.
9. Korea Campaign Service Medal – 3 years Service.
11. Presidential Flight Award.
12. Outstanding Airman of the Year.
13. Most Consistent Pilot of the Year.
14. Survivor of the Year.
15. Ace Of the Base per Year.
16. Master Mudpounder of the Year.
17. Aerial Achievement Medal – 50 Official TEs flown.
18. Volunteer Service Medal.
19. Air Force Achievement Medal – 1 year service.
20. Instructor Pilot Ribbon.
21. Advanced Training Ribbon.
22. Combat Readiness Ribbon.
23. Meritorious Flight Award.
24. Airman of the Quarter.
25. Most Consistent Pilot of the Quarter.
26. Survivor of the quarter.
27. Ace Of the Base per Quarter.
28. Master Mudpounder of the Quarter.
29. Air Ribbon - 15 AA kills and every 15 thereafter.
30. Ground Ribbon – 30 AG kills and every 30 thereafter.
31. Basic Training Ribbon.
32. First Blood Ribbon.
33. 5th Anniversary Medal.

9.0 CREDIT

Credit and thanks goes to Grunt's Military Site where the pictures and some information was taken from:

<http://www.gruntsmilitary.com/index.shtml>

ANNEX A – 185TH AWARDS CITATION SUBMISSION FORM V1.0[\(also available as word document\)](#)

Submitting Pilot:		Flight:	
Name of Recommended Pilot:			
Mission Date (If Applicable):			
Mission Name (If Applicable):			

Mission Flight Details (If Applicable)							
Ser No	Pilot Name	Flight Type	Position	MS/PS/MF	RTB/EJT/KIA	A-A Kills	A-G Kills
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							

Supporting Evidence (ACMI, Witnesses, De-brief screen, CPL etc)	
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Background Leading up to the event(s):	
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Summary of the Citation Event(s). (For a gallantry award it is to include if the action was voluntary, if it involved engaging the enemy and the result of the recommend pilot's actions.)	
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Recommended Award: (Note that this is a guide only. The final decision for an award, and it's level, rests with command)	
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